

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below by strikeouts and underlining.

1. (Currently amended) A sensor system comprising:

a sensor having a sensor power input and an output for supplying a sensor output;

a controller including:

a power-supply switch for switching on or off a supply of electrical power to said sensor power input; and

a control circuit for receiving and processing said sensor output and for turning off said power-supply switch ~~when said control circuit accepts the sensor output from said sensor~~ in response to said control circuit accepting said sensor output from said sensor.

2. (Previously amended) The sensor system of claim 1, wherein said sensor is a distance measurement sensor including a light projection means, a driver circuit for supplying an emission signal to said light projection means, and a light-receiving means for receiving light arising from light projected from said light

projection means, and wherein said controller starts acceptance of the sensor output from said sensor according to said emission signal.

3. (Previously amended) The sensor system of claim 2, wherein:

said sensor includes an open collector type output terminal as said output for producing said sensor output,

said controller further includes a series combination of a resistor and a switching means,

said series combination is connected between said output terminal and a power supply, and a voltage developed at a terminal between said series combination and said output terminal is accepted as the sensor output from said sensor, and

said control circuit turns on or off said switching means based on operation of said emission signal.

4. (Previously amended) The sensor system of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said controller enters a standby state of low power consumption in response to an end of said processing of said sensor output.

5. (Previously Added) A sensor system comprising:

a sensor module having a sensor module power input and an output for supplying a sensor module output;

a sensor module power-supply switch for switching on or off a supply of electrical power to said sensor module power input;

a control circuit for receiving and processing said sensor module output and providing a processed output; and

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said control circuit including means for detecting completion of reception of said sensor module output and for turning off said sensor module power-supply switch in response to the detection of completion and prior to said control circuit processing said sensor module output.

6. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 5 wherein:

said sensor module includes:

a sensor element; and

a sensing circuit for processing an output signal from said sensor element to provide said sensor module output and for outputting an output indicating signal signifying a start of output of said sensor module output;

said control circuit including:

a data line switch controlling power to a data line receiving said sensor module output to enable reading of said sensor module output; and

a data line control means for setting said data line switch to enable reading of said sensor module output in response to receiving said output indicating signal.

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7. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 6 wherein said data line control means sets said data line switch to disable reading said sensor module output in response to the detection of completion and prior to said control circuit processing said sensor module output.

8. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 7 wherein said sensor module includes:

an emitting element for sending out an emission to be sensed by said sensor element; and

said sensing circuit including a drive circuit producing a drive signal for driving said emitting element and driving generation of said output indicating signal.

9. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 8 wherein said drive signal and said output indicating signal are formed of a number of pulses and said data line control means recognizes completion of said number of pulses to set said data line switch to enable reading of said sensor module output.

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10. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 8 wherein said emitting element is a light generating device and said sensor element is a light detecting device.

11. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 7 wherein said sensor module includes:

an emitting element for sending out an emission to be sensed by said sensor element; and

said sensing circuit including a first output supplying said output indicating signal and a second output for a drive circuit to output a drive signal for driving said emitting element.

12. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 11 wherein said emitting element is a light generating device and said sensor element is a light detecting device.

13. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 7 wherein said sensor module includes:

an emitting element for sending out an emission of light to be sensed by said sensor element;

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said sensing circuit including a drive circuit to output a drive signal for driving said emitting element; and

said sensor element is a light detection device.

14. (Previously Added) A sensor system comprising:

a sensor module including:

a sensor element; and

a sensing circuit for processing an output signal from said sensor element to provide a sensor module output and for outputting an output indicating signal signifying a start of output of said sensor module output; and

a control circuit for receiving and processing said sensor module output and providing a processed output, said control circuit including:

a data line switch controlling power to a data line receiving said sensor module output to enable reading of said sensor module output; and

a data line control means for setting said data line switch to enable reading of said sensor module output in response to receiving said output indicating signal.

15. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 14 wherein said sensor module includes:

an emitting element for sending out an emission to be sensed by said sensor element;

said sensing circuit including a drive circuit producing a drive signal for driving said emitting element and driving generation of said output indicating signal.

16. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 14 wherein:

said control circuit include means for detecting completion of reception of said sensor module output; and

said data line control means sets said data line switch to disable reading said sensor module output in response to the detection of completion and prior to said control circuit processing said sensor module output.

17. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 16 wherein said sensor module includes:

an emitting element for sending out an emission to be sensed by said sensor element; and

said sensing circuit including a drive circuit producing a drive signal for driving said emitting element and driving generation of said output indicating signal.

18. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 17 wherein said drive signal and said output indicating signal are formed of a number of pulses and said data line control means recognizes completion of said number of pulses to set said data line switch to enable reading of said sensor module output.

19. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 17 wherein said emitting element is a light generating device and said sensor element is a light detecting device.

20. (Previously Added) The sensor system of claim 16 wherein said sensor module includes:

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an emitting element for sending out an emission to be sensed by said sensor element; and

said sensing circuit including a first output supplying said output indicating signal and a second output for a drive circuit to output a drive signal for driving said emitting element.
